



Ku-ring-gai Council

Fauna Management Policy

Version Number 2

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Fauna Management Policy

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Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	<p>Legislation relevant to the implementation of this Policy is the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act) • <i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i> (NSW) • <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> (NSW) (TSC Act) • <i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i> (NSW) • <i>Local Government Act 1993</i> (NSW) • <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> (NSW) • <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> (NSW) • State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs) and deemed SEPPs (formerly Regional Environmental Plans): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>SEPP 19 Bushland in Urban Areas</i> ○ <i>SEPP 44 Koala Habitat Protection</i> ○ <i>Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 20 – Hawkesbury Nepean River</i>, ○ <i>Sydney Regional Environment Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005</i> (and associated DCP).
Related Policies (Council & Internal)	<p>Supporting this policy is Council's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance 1971¹ (KPSO); • Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 (KLEP) • Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan (Local Centres) 2012 [KLEP (Local Centres)] • Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan (DCP) • Ku-ring-gai Local Centres Development Control Plan (Local Centres DCP) • No Net Loss Policy (pending) • Biodiversity Policy (2016)

¹ The KPSO will be replaced in time by the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015* (KLEP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ku-ring-gai Bushland Reserves Plan of Management• Companion Animal Management Plan (2010)• Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2016)• Ku-ring-gai Biodiversity & Riparian Lands Study
Related Documents - Procedures, Guidelines, Forms, WHS Modules/PCD's, Risk Assessments, Work Method Statements, etc	Not applicable
Other References	Not applicable

Version History

Version Number	Version Start Date	Version End Date	Author	Details and Comments
1	2007	09/082016	Peter Davies	First version
2	10/08/2016	(date the version ceased to be effective)	Marnie Kikken	Policy scope has been reduced to focus on the management of native and non-indigenous pest fauna within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA), with the management of companion and domestic animal management addressed in Council's Companion Animal Management Plan 2010.

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Policy

Purpose

This Policy provides the framework for Council to manage native and non-indigenous pest fauna within the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA).

Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- Maintain, protect and enhance Ku-ring-gai's native fauna and their habitat
- Maintain diverse native fauna species assemblages
- Assist the community to positively co-exist with native fauna on public and private land
- Control the spread of non-indigenous pest species and reduce their impacts
- Stop the decline of and support the recovery of listed threatened fauna species and populations and to manage key threatening processes associated with these species
- Implement a fauna monitoring and research program, which incorporates on ground surveys and seeks to support and integrate research from other organisations, to inform Council's fauna management program
- Form collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders to facilitate positive fauna management outcomes

Scope

This Policy applies to all sections of Council.

This Policy focuses on the management of native and non-indigenous pest fauna on public and private land within the Ku-ring-gai LGA. Council's Companion Animal Management Plan supports this Policy and provides the framework for the management of companion and domestic animals within the Ku-ring-gai Local LGA, in accordance with the *NSW Companion Animals Act 1998* and supporting Regulation 2008.

This Policy supports and should be implemented in accordance with national, state and regional legislation, policies and strategies, listed in this Policy.

Responsibilities

Specific responsibility for the implementation of this policy has been assigned to the following sections of Council:

- Environment and Sustainability
- Development & Assessment
- Projects Operations
- Strategic Projects
- Engineering Operations
- Information Technology
- Community & Recreation Services
- Library and Cultural Services
- Procurement and Contracts
- Open Space Operations
- Waste Operations
- Urban Planning & Heritage
- Corporate Communications

Council's Manager Environment and Sustainability has overall responsibility for compliance with this Policy.

Policy Statement

Background

The Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (LGA), situated approximately 16 kilometres from the city of Sydney and covering an area of 85 km², is bound by Garigal National Park to the east, Lane Cove National Park to the west and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to the north and spans three major catchments (Middle Harbour, Lane Cove River and Cowan Creek).

The Ku-ring-gai LGA contains 1152 hectares of Council-managed bushland reserves, comprising 24 vegetation communities. This includes 7 vegetation communities listed under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* and 4 listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. These vegetation communities provide habitat for more than 700 native plant species and over 300 vertebrate species, including 10 threatened flora species and 23 threatened fauna species (12 mammal, 8 bird, 2 amphibian and 1 reptile species). Many more threatened species have been previously recorded or have potential to occur based on the habitats and vegetation types within Ku-ring-gai.

Taxon / Group	Numbers of species found in the Ku-ring-gai LGA ²
Reptiles	~44
Amphibians	~16
Birds	200+
Mammals	~42
Invertebrates	170+

Table 1: Fauna species in the Ku-ring-gai LGA

The mosaic of bushland and urban forest in the LGA consists of biodiversity in protected reserves as well as connected vegetation corridors in public parks, golf courses, ovals, residential streets and private gardens. Both large areas of bushland and isolated patches of habitat, including individual trees with hollows and roosting sites, all contribute to the total habitat within the LGA and form Council's Greenweb, Ku-ring-gai's biodiversity reservoir.

Australia is one of the world's 'megadiverse' countries. Many of Australia's species, and even whole groups of species that comprise taxonomic families, are endemic (unique) to this continent. Between 7% and 10% of all species on Earth occur in Australia.³

Since European colonisation, some 125 plant and animal species or subspecies are known to have gone extinct in Australia – including 7% of known mammal species - giving Australia the worst mammal extinction rate out of the world's seven continents in the last 200 years. Today, more than 360 of our animal species and around 1240 of our plant species are considered threatened.⁴

All native birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals (except the dingo) are protected in NSW by the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*. Hundreds of these species are listed as threatened, giving them additional protection under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. Some fish species are also

² BioBase (2016), *Ku-ring-gai Council's flora and fauna database*

³ Australian Government (2011), *State of the Environment Report*.

⁴ NSW Environment & Heritage, *Native Animals (2016)*, <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/animals>

protected and listed under the *Fisheries Management Act 1994*. Ecosystems rely on complex interactions between species of plants and animals, bacteria, fungi and the abiotic environment. The existence of one species may depend on the health of another.

Native fauna are highly valued within the Ku-ring-gai community. They play a significant role in ecological processes and maintaining ecosystem function, through the pollination of plants, the dispersal of seeds, the breaking down of organic matter, and many other essential ecosystem services.

There are a range of key threatened processes at both a federal and state level that are, or are likely to, affect fauna species and populations in Ku-ring-gai. These include:

- Non-indigenous pest species - introduced animal species, such as the European rabbit and red fox compete with native animals for habitat and can prey on them
- Weeds – which aggressively invade areas displacing native animals. Weeds, however, can also provide fauna habitat.
- Diseases - exotic fungal infections, viruses and other pathogens can weaken and kill native species.
- Habitat loss or change - from broad scale land clearing and inappropriate fire regimes, to the loss of hollow bearing trees, and the gathering of bush rock for suburban gardens
- Climate change – changes to rainfall or fire regimes and alterations to the natural flow regimes of rivers and streams and their floodplains and wetlands can impact on species directly through loss of climatic habitat or indirectly through changes to species composition or ecological communities

Non-indigenous pest species are one of the greatest threats to biodiversity in Australia. In NSW, pest animals and weeds have been identified as a threat to 70% of the species, populations or ecological communities listed under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*. This is second only to clearing of native vegetation in terms of the number of species affected.⁵

Implementation program

The importance of protecting and enhancing Ku-ring-gai's native fauna and their habitat and control the numbers and impacts of non-indigenous pest species is reflected in the long-term objectives of Council's Community Strategic Plan, namely:

- A community empowered with knowledge, learning and information that benefits the environment
- Our bushland is rich with native flora and fauna

Implementation framework

Council will adopt the following management principles in the implementation of this Policy:

Precautionary principle

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, councils are required to manage the local environment with consideration to the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD), which incorporates the Precautionary Principle. Section 7e of the Act requires 'councils, Councillors and council employees to have regard to ESD principles in carrying out all of their responsibilities'.

⁵ EPA (2012), *New South Wales State of the Environment Report 2012*, Environment Protection Authority, Sydney

Evidence based management

Sound underlying scientific principles together with the most up to date science and research will inform decision-making and enable best practice.

Adaptive management

Biodiversity management must incorporate an adaptive approach that is flexible and inclusive, continually improves by testing and learning and drives best practice.

Maintenance of ecosystem function

The diversity of structure and the maintenance of ecological processes are critical for fauna habitat requirements.

In-situ conservation

Biodiversity is best conserved in-situ where landscapes, ecosystems and ecological processes maintain species in their natural habitats. Complementary ex-situ conservation activities should support in-situ conservation.

Natural disturbance

Restoring natural disturbance regimes, including fire (frequency, intensity and season) and hydrological flow patterns, and natural herbivory processes at local and regional scales is important for fauna species reliant on these environments.

Landscape management

Landscape-level assessments of conservation priorities and development should inform the application of the mitigation hierarchy. They should be conducted in advance of project decisions and investments and should identify important conservation values and potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to these values.

Implementation activities

To meet the objectives of this Policy, the following activities will be implemented across a number of sections of Council:

Management activity	Environment and Sustainability	Development & Assessment	Projects Operations	Strategic Projects	Engineering Operations	Information Technology	Community & Recreation Services	Library and Cultural Services	Procurement and Contracts	Open Space Operations	Waste Operations	Urban Planning & Heritage	Corporate Communications
Non-indigenous pest control													
Implement a non-indigenous pest control program in accordance with relevant legislation and current best practice										√			
Encourage new and upgraded infrastructure design that restricts use by non-indigenous pest fauna, for example, bird proof bins and appropriate entry design for artificial hollows, where appropriate	√		√	√	√		√			√	√		
Community engagement													
Deliver community programs to increase the community's connection with and understanding of native fauna and to enhance urban wildlife and its habitat, primarily through Council's Wild Things program, environmental volunteering program, Backyard Bushcare and events and festival program	√							√					
Provide information to residents on their responsibilities and the best methods to minimise impacts of non-indigenous pest fauna on private property	√												√
Provide educational information to residents on living harmoniously with native fauna on private property	√												√
Implement Council's community rare or unusual fauna sightings program, for educational and public land management purposes	√												
Native fauna protection													
Provide information to ensure the appropriate capture or relocation of any protected fauna (that is, a referral to the relevant authority for issuing of a licence)	√		√										
Take appropriate action to implement and do not make decisions that are inconsistent with any federal or state recovery plans and threat abatement plans and the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS)	√	√	√	√	√		√			√	√	√	

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Management activity	Environment and Sustainability	Development & Assessment	Projects Operations	Strategic Projects	Engineering Operations	Information Technology	Community & Recreation Services	Library and Cultural Services	Procurement and Contracts	Open Space Operations	Waste Operations	Urban Planning & Heritage	Corporate Communications
Assess subdivisions, development applications and Council projects giving full regard to fauna and their habitat, including threatened species, populations or ecological communities, in accordance with the provisions of relevant legislation	√	√	√										
Integrate fauna habitat protection and enhancement into Council's bushland, fire management and catchment management programs, including the retention of non-native flora species and the construction of man-made structures, where appropriate	√	√	√	√									
Create and expand Wildlife Protection Areas / formal reserves / Conservation Agreements, BioBanking sites and biodiversity corridors, where appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to secure / improve habitat; and to promote the genetic diversity of native fauna 	√												
Minimise disturbance to and protect significant areas of fauna significance (for example, the Ku-ring-gai Flying Fox Reserve) by restricting access to these identified areas	√												
Participate in the NSW Government's <i>Saving our Species</i> threatened species conservation program	√		√	√									
Maintain Council's biodiversity database (BioBase)	√												
Support native fauna rehabilitation programs, where appropriate	√												
Investigate and implement a fauna translocation program, if appropriate	√		√										
Implement broad scale habitat management for specific species	√		√										
Record incidences of road kill and seek to implement best practice mitigation strategies	√					√					√		
Consider innovative and new approaches to combat recognised threats to local fauna	√												
Report to relevant authorities, as appropriate, persons or circumstances causing harm to protected fauna where no licence has been granted or where an activity is going to have a significant effect on a threatened species or their habitat	√		√	√									

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Management activity	Environment and Sustainability	Development & Assessment	Projects Operations	Strategic Projects	Engineering Operations	Information Technology	Community & Recreation Services	Library and Cultural Services	Procurement and Contracts	Open Space Operations	Waste Operations	Urban Planning & Heritage	Corporate Communications
Report to relevant authorities, as appropriate, persons or circumstances causing harm to protected fauna where no licence has been granted or where an activity is going to have a significant effect on a threatened species or their habitat	√	√	√	√									
Refer enquires regarding injured native fauna to wildlife care and rehabilitation organisations, licensed by the NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service	√												
Consider the provision of fauna habitat and movement for new or upgraded infrastructure, such as roads or sports fields, and in all components of the built environment.	√	√	√	√	√					√		√	
Climate change													
Implement climate change related actions from the NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS), namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote ways to increase landscape permeability for fauna species range shifts (identification of species and ecosystem most at risk) Strengthen the resilience and connectivity of existing protected areas by identifying strategic future habitats and corridors 	√												
Partnerships and advocacy													
Proactively engage with State and Federal Government and other relevant agencies to influence policies and reforms that affect Council's fauna management program	√		√	√								√	
Actively seek out opportunities to participate in regional and collaborative fauna management and research programs	√												

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Management activity	Environment and Sustainability	Development & Assessments	Projects Operations	Strategic Projects	Engineering Operations	Information Technology	Community & Recreation Services	Library and Cultural Services	Procurement and Contracts	Open Space Operations	Waste Operations	Urban Planning & Heritage	Corporate Communications
Implement an annual fauna monitoring program, in partnership with the community, government agencies and other councils, if appropriate, to assist with the development of a robust database on species distribution (presence / absence) and trends, threats to fauna and fauna habitat preferences, to inform Council's fauna management program	√												
Support research conducted by universities and other institutions which are relevant to the issues facing fauna in Ku-ring-gai	√												

Monitoring and evaluation

Council will monitor and report against this Policy as follows:

Objectives	Data collection / measurement	Data application / indicator
To maintain, protect and enhance Ku-ring-gai's native fauna and their habitat	Monitoring conducted through bushland site management plans	Improvement in bushland condition rating for areas actively managed through bushland site management plans
	Area of bushland actively managed by Council	
	Area of bushland actively managed by volunteers	Hectares of Council bushland regenerated (annually)
	Lengths of creek bank restored and maintained	Maintain and improve in-stream and riparian corridor health
	Number of gross pollutant structures installed	Water quality maintained or improved
	Macroinvertebrate sampling	
	Water quality monitoring	
	Number of eco-burns conducted	Abundance of desirable species post burn and comparisons of changes in species richness and composition before and after burning
	Control burn history mapped	
	Lineal metres of protective fencing	
	Species presence and distribution mapping	Applied in environmental and development assessments and to inform management activities

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Objectives	Data collection / measurement	Data application / indicator
	Number and extent of bushland reserves Review of Ku-ring-gai vegetation mapping and canopy mapping. Greenweb mapping updated Number of Wildlife Protection Areas / formal reserves / Conservation Agreements, BioBanking sites and biodiversity corridors created or expanded	Maintain or increase the number and / or extent of bushland reserves and their protection status Maintain or increase the patch size of native vegetation communities Maintain or increase vegetation extent Maintain or increase canopy densities Greenweb extent maintained or improved
To maintain diverse native fauna species assemblages	Species presence and distribution mapping	Applied in environmental and development assessments and to inform management activities for positive fauna outcomes
To assist the community to positively co-exist with native fauna on public and private land	Number of and attendance rates at native fauna educational events and programs Council website and social media visits to native fauna information Distribution of native fauna through Wild Things program Online educational materials	Community participation in native fauna educational events and programs Number of visits to Council website and social media information on native fauna Bee hives and Pool to Pond fauna distributed Downloads of online educational material Increased community knowledge and understanding Number of active Wild Things members
To control the spread of non-indigenous pest species and reduce their impacts	Number of targeted pest species programs	Threatening processes are managed and controlled
To stop the decline of and support the recovery of listed threatened fauna species and populations and to manage habitat and key threatening processes associated with these species	Council website reference and Council review of relevant Recovery Plans, NSW Priorities Action Statement and Threat Abatement Plans	Management activities conform to actions listed in relevant Recovery Plans, NSW Priorities Action Statement and Threat Abatement Plans
To implement a fauna monitoring and research program, which incorporates on ground surveys and seeks to support and integrate research from other organisations, to inform Council's fauna management program	Number of research projects delivered Maintenance of Council's fauna database, Biobase	Participation in research projects Research results inform fauna management activities (analysis of species and population trends)

Objectives	Data collection / measurement	Data application / indicator
To form collaborative partnerships with a range of stakeholders to facilitate positive fauna management outcomes	Number of Saving our Species partnership projects delivered	Saving our Species projects delivered
	Number of grants procured	Grant programs delivered
	Number of partnership projects delivered	Participation in partnership projects
	Number of community grants awarded	Community projects delivered

Associated documents

Supporting this policy is Council's:

- Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance 1971 (KPSO)⁶;
- Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 (KLEP)
- Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan (Local Centres) 2012 [KLEP (Local Centres)]
- Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan (DCP)
- Ku-ring-gai Local Centres Development Control Plan (Local Centres DCP)
- No Net Loss Policy (pending)
- Biodiversity Policy (2016)
- Ku-ring-gai Bushland Reserves Plan of Management
- Companion Animal Management Plan (2010)
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2016)
- Ku-ring-gai Biodiversity & Riparian Lands Study

Legislative framework ⁷

Legislation relevant to the implementation of this Policy is the:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth) (EPBC Act)
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW)
- *Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995* (NSW) (TSC Act)
- *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (NSW)
- *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW)
- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW)
- *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW)
- State Environment Planning Policies (SEPPs) and deemed SEPPs (formerly Regional Environmental Plans):
 - *SEPP 19 Bushland in Urban Areas*
 - *SEPP 44 Koala Habitat Protection*
 - *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 20 – Hawkesbury Nepean River*,
 - *Sydney Regional Environment Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005* (and associated DCP).

⁶ The KPSO will be replaced in time by the Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015 (KLEP)

⁷ NSW legislation relating to biodiversity is currently undergoing significant reform. Whilst many acts and regulations will be repealed and replaced with the Biodiversity Conservation Bill 2015 the overall direction of this policy is unlikely to be impacted

Definitions

Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Adaptive management	Adaptive management is environmental management practice that accommodates uncertainty and responds to events as they unfold. It includes monitoring change over time, so that the results of management choices can be assessed and changes made if needed to improve future management.
BioBanking site	Biobank sites are formed when a landowners enter into a BioBanking agreement with the NSW Minister for the Environment A BioBanking agreement is a conservation covenant that is attached to the land title and is undertaken in accordance with Part 7A of the NSW <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> . For further information see http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/biobanking/
Biodiversity corridor	An area to facilitate the connection and maintenance of native flora and fauna habitats. Within the urban landscape, biodiversity corridors may be broken by roads and other urban elements and may include remnant trees and associated native and exotic vegetation. For further information, see the Ku-ring-gai Biodiversity & Riparian Lands Study (available on Council's website).
Conservation Agreements	A Conservation Agreements is a joint agreement between landholders and the Minister for the Environment. Registered on the title of the land, the voluntary agreement provides permanent protection for the sites special features. Agreements are made under Division 12 in Part 4 of the NSW <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> .
Fauna	All animal life (mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, fish and invertebrates).
Formal reserves	Formal reserves include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office of Environment and Heritage protected areas (e.g. Nature Reserves and National Park listed under the NSW <i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i> • Ku-ring-gai Natural Areas as categorised under the NSW <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>
Key threatening process	The NSW <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> and the Commonwealth <i>Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> both provide for the identification and listing of key threatening processes. A key threatening process is a process which threatens or may threaten the survival, abundance or evolutionary development of a native species or ecological community.
Native fauna	Any animal-life that is indigenous to New South Wales or is known to periodically or occasionally migrate to New South Wales, whether vertebrate or invertebrate and in any stage of biological development.
Non-indigenous pest species	A species occurring, as a result of human activities, beyond its accepted normal distribution and which threatens valued environmental, agricultural or other social resources by the damage it causes.
NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement	The NSW Threatened Species Priorities Action Statement (PAS) identifies strategies to help recover threatened plants and animals; establishes priorities to implement these strategies; identifies actions for all listed species, populations and ecological communities; and identifies actions to manage key threatening processes. Since 2007, the preparation of the PAS has largely replaced the development of new recovery plans.
Population	A group of organisms, all of the same species, occupying a particular area.
Precautionary principle	A principle of ecologically sustainable development whereby if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
Recovery plans	A plan prepared for a species, a group of species, or for part of the range of a species under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> or NSW <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> . Recovery plans outline: the threatened species' critical habitat; the threats to the species; and detailed actions that will be undertaken, including the cost, timeframe and agency responsible for carrying out each action.
Saving our Species	A new conservation program that aims to maximise the number of threatened species that can be secured in the wild in NSW for 100 years.

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Term / Abbreviation	Definition
Species	A level of biological classification comprising one or more populations of individuals capable of interbreeding to produce fertile offspring.
Threat abatement plans	Threat abatement plans can be prepared for key threatening processes listed under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and the NSW. A threat abatement plan: outlines actions to reduce or eliminate the threatening process; explains how the success of these actions will be measured; identifies the authorities that will be responsible for carrying out those actions; and gives a cost estimate and timetable, if possible, for carrying out the plan.
Threatening process	A threatening process is something that threatens, or could potentially threaten, the survival or evolutionary development of a species, population or ecological community.
Threatened species	Animal species which have been assessed as facing threats to their survival and may be at risk of extinction in the wild. Listed as: critically endangered; endangered; and vulnerable in Part 1 or 4 of Schedule 1, Part 1 of Schedule 1A or Part 1 of Schedule 2 within the NSW <i>Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995</i> .
Vegetation community	A group of plants occurring together to form a characteristic vegetation type.
Wildlife Protection Areas	Wildlife Protection Areas are declared under the <i>NSW Companion Animals Act 1998</i> for the protection of our unique native animals and their habitats. All domestic pets are restricted from entering a Wildlife Protection Area.